

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 SAM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7025

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 96

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: CUNHAL CALLS FOR
COMMON PLATFORM

REF: (A) PONTA DELGADA 196, (B) LISBON 3012, (C) LISBON 2848

SUMMARY: IN A MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT, COMMUNIST LEADER
CUNHAL CALLED FOR A PS-PCP COMMON PLATFORM IN A "GOVERNMENT
OF THE LEFT." DANGERS AND TEMPTATIONS OF AN ATTRACTIVE PCP
OFFER ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN PS REFUSAL TO
CONSIDER AN ALLIANCE WITH ITS MOST LOGICAL PARTNER,
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THE PPD. BY AVOIDING ALL ALLIANCES, THE PS IS ABLE

TO PRESENT A UNIFORM POLICY, WHICH IS SEES
AS JUSTIFYING AND MAKING POLITICALLY FEASIBLE ITS
REFUSAL TO BRING PCP INTO GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. CUNHAL CALLS FOR COMMON PLATFORM. AT THEIR FIRST
MAJOR LISBON RALLY SINCE THE APRIL 25 ELECTIONS, AN
ESTIMATED 30,000 COMMUNIST PARTY FAITHFUL HEARD PCP
LEADER CUNHAL PROCLAIM THAT "A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT
WITH COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IS THE ONLY DEMOCRATIC
SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION... THE ONLY
SOLUTION CORRESPONDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE LAST
ELECTION." CUNHAL REITERATED THE OFT-EXPRESSED POST-
ELECTION PCP POSITION THAT THE SOCIALISTS, WITH ONLY 35
PERCENT OF THE VOTE, HAD NO MANDATE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.
IT SEEMED UNLIKELY, HE JUDGED, THAT THE SOCIALISTS WOULD
PRESENT A PROGRAM OF MINORITY GOVERNMENT TO THE ASSEMBLY
OF THE REPUBLIC WITHOUT SOME PRIOR ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD
BE APPROVED, THROUGH EITHER THE SUPPORT OR ABSTENTION OF
OTHER PARTIES. ADMITTING THAT THE PCP HAD SOME PROBLEMS
WITH CERTAIN SOCIALIST POSITIONS, HE DEEMED IT
"INDISPENSABLE" THAT THE TWO PARTIES REACH AN
"UNDERSTANDING" ON A COMMON PLATFORM INCLUDING SUPPORT
FOR: GUARANTEES OF DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES;
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS FAVORING THE WORKING
CLASS; CONSOLIDATION AND ADVANCE OF AGRARIAN REFORM;
CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONALIZATIONS AND
WORKER CONTROL OF MANAGEMENT, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO A
BROAD PRIVATE SECTOR; AND AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN
POLICY BASED ON GOOD WILL AND COOPERATION
WITH ALL PEOPLES. CUNHAL SAID THE PCP HAD PROPOSED HIGH
LEVEL MEETINGS WITH THE SOCIALISTS BUT HAD ITS OVERTURES
REJECTED.

2. CUNHAL ON PRESIDENCY: CUNHAL CLARIFIED THE COMMUNIST
POSITION ON THE PRESIDENCY. THE PCP, HE SAID, HAD ALWAYS FAVORED
A MILITARY PRESIDENT BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY NATURE
OF SOME OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES (PRESIDENT
OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND SUPREME COMMANDER OF
ARMED FORCES). THE COMMUNISTS ADVOCATED
THAT THE MILITARY THEMSELVES CHOOSE A CANDIDATE FROM
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THEIR RANKS. THIS DID NOT MEAN, HE SAID, THAT THE
PCP WOULD "BLINDLY" FOLLOW ANY CANDIDATE PROPOSED BY
THE MILITARY. RATHER, THE PCP'S CANDIDATE WOULD
HAVE TO BE AN "INTRANSIGENT DEFENDER OF PORTUGUESE
DEMOCRACY AND THE CONSTITUTION." CUNHAL ADDED
THAT THE PCP WOULD NOT SUPPORT MILITARY CANDIDATES
PROPOSED BY THE FAR LEFT.

3. COSTA GOMES CANDIDACY FLOATED: THE COMMUNIST-LEANING AND INDEPENDENT LEFTIST LISBON PRESS HAS BEGUN A CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE THE CANDIDACY OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. MAY 5 "DIARIO DE LISBOA" AND "DIARIO POPULAR" GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO ACTIVITIES OF "NONPARTISAN" ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING A COSTA GOMES CANDIDACY. ACTIVITIES CONSISTED OF PETITION TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL BY 93 UNKNOWN IDENTIFIED BY ONE PAPER AS "INTELLECTUALS" AND OF ARRIVAL IN LISBON OF PRO-COSTA GOMES DELEGATION OF PORTUGUESE LIVING IN ANGOLA.

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4. SOCIALISTS RESPOND: QUERIED BY PRESS AS TO

POSSIBLE SOCIALIST SUPPORT FOR COSTA GOMES CANDIDACY, PS RESONSE WAS UNEQUIVOCALLY NEGATIVE. IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, PARTY SPOKESMAN MARIO SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA AFFIRMED, "COSTA GOMES HAS SAID HE IS NOT A CANDIDATE. THE PS AGREES THAT HE SHOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE." FINANCE MINISTER SALGADO ZENHA AND EXTERNAL TRADE MINISTER JORGE CAMPINOS EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS IN SEPARATE STATEMENTS.

5. AZORES DISCONTENT REPORTED; MAGALHAES CRITICIZED:
LISBON PRESS HAS GIVEN FACTUAL BUT COMPREHENSIVE
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COVERAGE TO RISING DISCONTENT IN AZORES OVER RECENTLY APPROVED AUTONOMY STATUTE (REF A). AZOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY REGIONAL JUNTA MEMBER MONJARDINO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN LISBON MAY 6 TO SEEK REVISION OF STATUTE. WHILE EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION OVER SOME PROVISIONS OF STATUTE, CDS NATIONAL SECRETARIAT MAY 5 TERMED ITS APPROVAL A "POSITIVE STEP" TOWARD ISLAND AUTONOMY. THIS POSITION CONTRASTED WITH THAT OF AZOREAN CDS, WHICH HAD BLASTED NEW STATUTE AS "TREASONOUS." STATUTUE HAS SO FAR PRODUCED NO NEGATIVE REACTION IN MADEIRA. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, MARIO MESQUITA, PROMINENT SOCIALIST AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE LEADING MORNING PAPER "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS," CRITICIZED THE PERFORMANCE OF AZOREAN JUNTA PRESIDENT GEN. ALTINO MAGALHAES IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MAY 5. COMPARING MAGALHAES WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ, MESQUITA SAID THAT LATTER HAD "CEDED TO THE PUTSCHIST PSEUDO-LEFT" IN PORTUGAL WHILE THE FORMER HAD BEEN CONCILIATORY TOWARD EXTREME RIGHT MOVEMENTS IN AZORES. MESQUITA'S COMMENTS WERE NOTEWORTHY IN VIEW OF RECENT REPORTS OF DISSATISFACTION AMONG TOP LEVELS OF ARMED FORCES WITH MAGALHAES. (REF B)

6. TIMOR: PORTUGUESE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION MET MAY 5 TO DISCUSS PORTUGUESE RESPONSE TO MOST RECENT UN DECLARATION ON TIMOR. FINAL STATEMENT ANNOUNCED GOP WOULD ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH UN SPECIAL ENVOY WINSPEARE WHILE CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE LIBERATION OF 23 PORTUGUESE MILITARY BEING DETAINED IN TIMOR. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, GOP'S SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON TIMOR ANNOUNCED MAY 5 THAT IT HAD TAKEN NO FORMAL NOTICE OF A RECENT STATEMENT BY PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF EAST TIMOR THAT PORTUGUESE PRISONERS THERE WOULD BE FREED ONLY AFTER GOP MET CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

7. INTERSINDICAL: MINISTER OF LABOR TOMAS ROSA SAID

MAY 5 HE HOPED FUTURE OF COMMUNIST DOMINATED UNITARY
LABOR CONFEDERATION, INTERSINDICAL, COULD BE RESOLVED
BY WORKERS THEMSELVES, RATHER THAN THROUGH LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS. HE WAS NOT OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO A
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SINGLE LABOR CONFEDERATION, HE SAID, BUT BELIEVED THAT
IT SHOULD BE DEMOCRATICALLY CONSTITUTED. ROSA'S
MINISTRY HAD PREVIOUSLY INITIATED LEGAL ACTION AIMED
AT HAVING INTERSINDICAL DECLARED ILLEGAL. (REF C)

8. COMMENT: CUNHAL'S SPEECH IS MOST EXPLICIT CALL YET FOR
PCP REPRESENTATION IN A FUTURE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.
PS LEADER JAIME GAMA TOLD EMBOFF MAY 5 THAT, IN ORDER
TO SATISFY GREATER EUROPEAN IMPERATIVE OF KEEPING
COMMUNISTS IN AT LEAST ONE NATO GOVERNMENT, PCP IS
WILLING TO PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR A PORTFOLIO.
DANGERS AND TEMPTATIONS OF AN ATTRACTIVE PCP OFFER OF
A COMMON PLATFORM ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN PS REFUSAL
TO CONSIDER AN ALLIANCE WITH ITS MOST LOGICAL PARTNER,
THE PPD. BY AVOIDING ALL ALLIANCES, THE PS IS ABLE
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